The Riga Initiative

Back ground

- Sigulda Workshop in September 2001
- Riga Conference in August 2002
  - Purpose
  - Participants
  - Result
    - * Strategy
    - * Work Arrangements
    - * Secretariat
- Plenary Meeting in Vilnius in October 2003
- Results so far

The Baltic States Environmental/Military Cooperation Workshop

- Sigulda, Latvia September12-14, 2001
- goal: to develop potential working solutions for future cooperation among the Baltic States and the countries of the surrounding region

The Baltic Environmental/Military Cooperation Conference

Riga, Latvia

August 20-22, 200

- goal: to discuss achievements of environmental/military cooperation and necessity to establish a framework for coordinated environmental/military cooperation in the Baltic Sea region

Strategy

- Purpose

  - Framework for future work

  - Develop military/environmental work in the Baltic Sea region

  - Promote efficient use of resources

  - Promote confidence building

  - Promote sustainable development
- Objectives
- Co-operation areas: edu/train, EMS, clean-up, nature protection etc.

Strategy Action Plan

- Discuss and encourage action and co-operation
- Encourage countries to launch specific projects
- Assist in coordinating support
- Elaborate annual BALTDEC Action Plan
- Conduct regular follow up of Strategy achievements
- Establish Information Network, initiate Information Database
- Establish several year schedule for Plenary Meetings
- Etc (in total 16 items)

Work Arrangements

BALTDEC (Baltic Sea Region Defence Environmental Co-operation) - informal forum of experts,

consists of:

- Plenary Meetings
- Informal Secretariat
- Points of Contact

Plenary Meetings

- Every 12-24 month
- Aim:

- share experiences on defence environmental work and co-operation

- discuss common issues on co-ordination and co-operation of defence environmental work in the region

- encourage active work according to the strategy

Informal Secretariat

- An informal working group
- Tasks:

- distribute information to the PoC

- elaborate proposals and discussion papers for Plenary Meetings

- Countries represented: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden
- Chaired by Sweden

Points of Contact

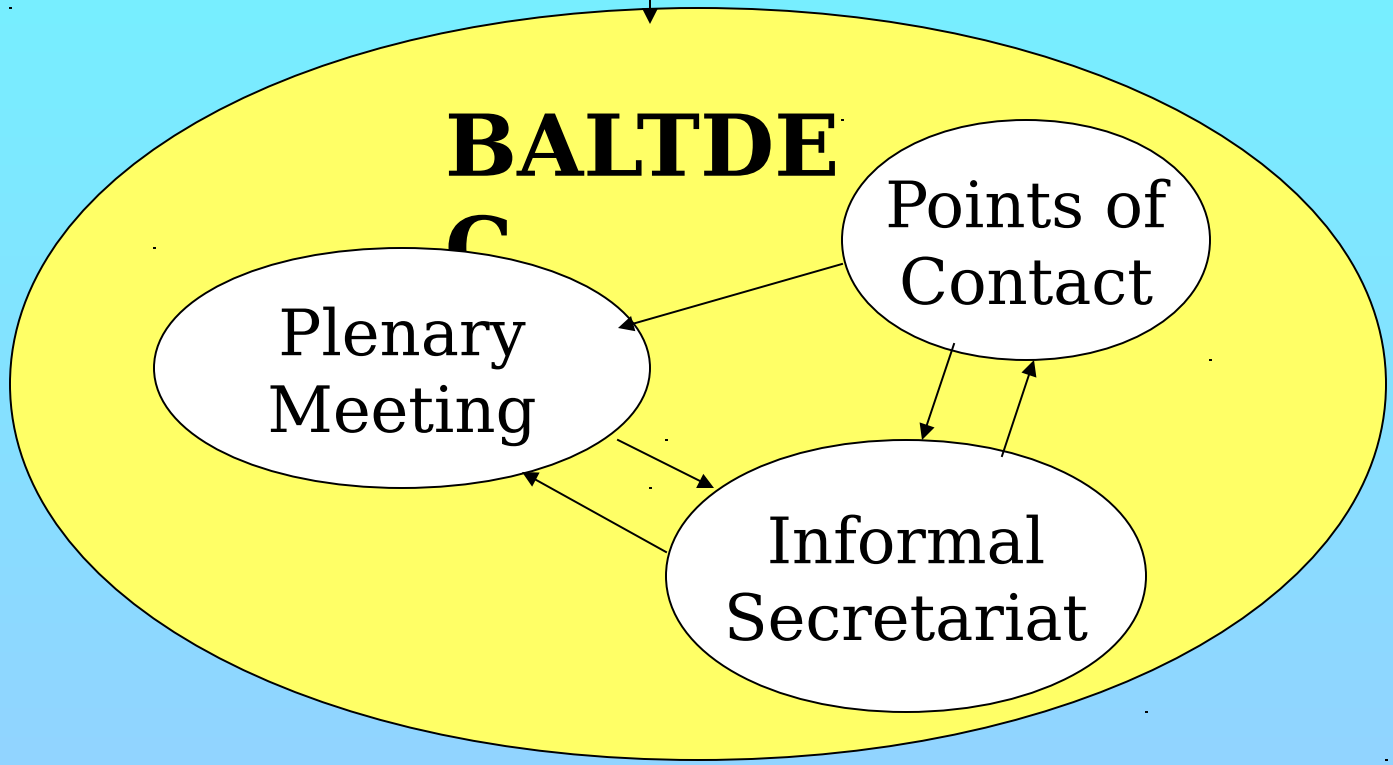
- appointed by each participating country
- to promote efficient co-operation
- to facilitate information exchange

Participating countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Rumania, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States

Together, the Baltic Sea region Defence Environmental Co-operation Strategy and BALTDEC (Plenary Meetings, Informal Secretariat and Points of Contact)
form
the Riga Initiative

Riga Initiative

STRATEGY



Inventory on military/environmental work

- Questionnaire, clarify:

  - past, ongoing and planned co-operation, to form basis for future co-operation

  - country specific needs for action, to facilitate further work

  - country specific needs of co-operation, to facilitate further work

Inventories on:

- the Baltic Sea region co-operation in different fields (excepting defence environmental co-operation)
- defence environmental multilateral co-operation in non Baltic Sea region

Purpose- to clarify already existing co-operation and to examine ways of BALTDEC co-operation with and take advantage of already existing structures, as well as to ensure there is no duplication of work

Plenary Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania October 2003

- Main issues:
  - Strategy
  - Decision making concerning to the Strategy
  - Secretariat

Riga Initiative: results so far

- At the Vilnius meeting the representatives on the expert level agreed on the Strategy
- Goal: a political endorsement or decision on the Riga Initiative work and the Strategy
- Riga Initiative work is voluntary and open to any country
- Results of the Riga Initiative were presented at the meeting of the Defence Ministers of the Nordic and Baltic countries in Stockholm, Sweden in November 2003
- Next Plenary Meeting - Tallinn, Estonia in April 2005

Military/environmental co-operation in the Baltic Sea region is essential not only for environmental stability, but also for regional stability at the social and political level

Thank you for your attention!